

Hope House Foundation Internship Opportunities

About Hope House Foundation

Hope House Foundation (HHF) is a local, private, nonprofit organization that serves over 125 adults with disabilities in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. The disabilities of the people HHF serves include mental retardation, traumatic brain injury, mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, as well as some physical disabilities such as hearing, visual, and motor skill impairments. Designed to be flexible and innovative, services are modified to meet the unique needs of each participant. Individual choice is valued, promoted and encouraged.

Hope House has an international reputation for being a leader in the field of mental retardation. Our Executive Director, Lynne Seagle, won the Kennedy Foundation's Future Leaders in Mental Retardation Award. This is an international award and is given out only every 6 years. Previous winners include Mother Teresa and BF Skinner. In 2008, Hope House Foundation won the Full Community Inclusion Award from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This prestigious award was given to HHF for its pioneering leadership in creating inclusive communities that empower people with disabilities to lead full, productive, and self-determined lives.

An internship with Hope House Foundation offers a student many benefits, including:

Flexible Schedule: Hope House is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Because of this, intern students are not restricted to completing their hours during a specific time period. Hope House Foundation can accommodate a variety of schedule needs.

Service Experience: Intern students work directly with full-time service providers in one of our 13 service teams. Students are able to learn first hand how services to persons with developmental disabilities are offered in a community setting.

Direct Supervision: As an internship student, you will meet weekly with your appointed supervisor at the service location. Your supervisor will provide instruction, assign work tasks, and provide ongoing feedback on your job performance.

Professional Training: As an intern you will receive initial orientation to Hope House in general and to your designated service location in particular. Ongoing training at your team will continue throughout your internship. In addition, Hope House Foundation provides regular training and inservices for our staff, which intern students are encouraged to attend. Topics for training include understanding autism, Alzheimer's disease, health & wellness issues, behavioral support principles and applications, understanding mental health diagnosis, and goal writing and documentation. Intern students at Hope House Foundation are treated with the same respect provided to staff.

Balanced Experience: Hope House Foundation serves primarily adults but also some adolescents. Students who plan to work professionally with children with disabilities have found this experience invaluable for the insights it provides. They understand their work with the kids with a better understanding of the child's future options as an adult living in the community.

Future Employment Opportunities: Internships at Hope House Foundation routinely lead to both full and part time employment opportunities. Hope House prefers to hire from within, which places interns in an advantageous position.

Hope House Foundation is always open to discussing your individual internship objectives and to designing an educational internship that best meets your needs.